

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

February 15, 2006 LB 188

that I received a \$100,000 contribution from a New York City investor. That is patently false. That is against the law. There are limitations for the federal races--individuals, \$2,100; PACs, \$5,000, not \$100,000. I want the record to reflect that. Do I have to raise a lot of money to overcome an opponent's, actually two opponents' personal wealth? Absolutely, and I'm proud of the fact that I can raise that money. I'm darn proud of that fact. I will say that I had to send a \$10 check from the Mitchell Chamber of Commerce back, because that was in violation of a campaign finance regulation. That was a prize from a parade. We got third place, inadvertently. We happened to have a nice entry into the parade. Had to send a \$10 check back to the small town chamber of commerce. Why? Because of campaign finance regulation. It sounds great, it sounds great to cap these dollars, to cap these checks and so forth, but if I'm going to overcome an opponent's...he wrote a check, \$75,000; a personal check, \$75,000. I don't have that in my bank account. I don't even have that as equity in my house. My whole house, I'd be lucky if that...if my house altogether was worth \$75,000, not to mention how much equity there is or there isn't. Let's calm down. Let's really look at what we're arguing here. We're talking about...and it all goes back to this, we're talking about public funds used in campaigns. We know of a case here that Drew Miller, Regent Drew Miller, blatantly violated the law. Did he pay a fine? Yes. Did then Attorney General Stenberg choose to prosecute? No, and I don't know his reasoning behind that, but those are the facts. What does Senator Beutler's efforts do to make it so that Drew Miller cannot blatantly--I've got a handout here; you'll be receiving it in a few minutes--blatantly violate the law? We don't know yet whether or not Mr. Hergert blatantly violated the law. There's speculation, but we don't know yet. But we know--we have it in writing where Regent Miller blatantly violated the law. What do we do about that? Not a darn thing. And I sure haven't found in the amendment or in LB 188 where this is going to prevent that from happening. Disclosure is the answer, because every time we start to regulate there just gets to be one more problem, one after another after another. Moveon.org, that's a federal issue, moveon.org. They...there was a multimillionaire, George Soros, pledged to spend \$75 million to